

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/>
(916) 653-8007

**Management Committee Meeting Report**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
November 2, 2010
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: **Resources Building**
15th Floor, Room 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Meeting Attendance

Committee Members Doug Piirto (Chair), Pam Giacomini, Tom Walz; Stan Dixon (Board Chairman); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Pam Linstedt, Chris Maranto, Dr. Helge Eng, Dr. Russ Henly, Crawford Tuttle (Department of Forestry & Fire Protection); Frank Mulhair (California Licensed Foresters Association); Charles Greenlaw, Dan Weldon (Alliance 4 Family Forests); Larry Camp (Forest Landowners of California); Mike Liquori (Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group); Addie Jacobson, Susan Robinson (Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch).

~ Items Appear in the order in which they were discussed by the Committee ~

Agenda Item #1: Review of the Revised Draft NTMP Program Growth and Yield Guidelines Document.

Staff introduced the topic and reported that the draft document had been circulated for review by several academic experts in forest growth and yield analysis pursuant to the Committee's prior direction. It is anticipated that comments from these individuals will be received in advance of the December Committee meeting. The current draft is not ready for wider dissemination at this time. It is anticipated that both Board and Cal Fire staff will work to present a final draft for Committee review sometime prior to the first of the new year.

Following vigorous discussion of the purpose and elements of the draft document, Board staff was directed to continue working with Cal Fire staff to finalize the draft. The item will be placed on the Committee's agenda for further discussion in December at which time expert comment will likely be available for review.

Agenda Item #2: Discussion of Prospective Interim Guidance for Cal Fire Management Plan Implementation During Period of Board Review of Jackson Advisory Group Recommendations.

Ms. Pam Linstedt, JDSF Timber Sale Program Manager provided a report on the status of timber harvest planning at Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) in light of the upcoming expiration of the 3 year interim working period and attendant silvicultural guidelines. A "new interim management period" will begin as the Board undertakes review of the Jackson Advisory Group's (JAG) recommendations beginning in January 2011. As thorough review of the JAG recommendations will take an indeterminate period of time, the Department is seeking direction from the Board as to the manner in which timber operations should continue during this time.

Ms. Linstedt presented several possible "new interim management period" options for the Board's consideration as follows:

Option 1. Continue to manage under the Board approved 2008 management plan (FMP) without additional constraint.

Under this option, the projected average annual harvest level would be 20 MMBF (FMP projection for period 2011-2014).

Option 2. Implement the 2008 FMP while incorporating Department recommended “temporary measures.” [DEPARTMENT’S PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE].

“Temporary measures” would include:

- Exclusive use of conservative silvicultural methods such as selection and commercial thinning (unless an approved research and demonstration project requires otherwise).
- Allowance for JAG review of all proposed Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs). Note: the JAG has completed their review of all plans prepared in 2010 which include three THPs already conforming to these temporary measures.
- The projected average annual harvest level for the period 2011-2014 would be 12.5 MMBF.
- Approximately 1,000-1,300 acres would be allowed for harvest annually.

Option 3. Extend the initial implementation period interim silvicultural guidelines as follows:

- Post-harvest conifer stocking (basal area) levels will be approximately 70 percent or greater of pre-harvest levels.
- Average tree size as determined by quadratic mean stem diameter will be approximately equal to or greater than pre-harvest levels.
- Efforts will be made to limit the extent of harvest in areas that have had little or no harvest entry since 1925, or that currently have greater than 10 trees/acre greater than 30” in diameter (see FMP Map Figure 8), particularly where those areas have not already had work done to prepare timber harvesting plans.
- The projected average annual harvest level under the interim guidelines would continue to be 12 MMBF.

The Committee recognized the need to carefully consider these options before providing a possible recommendation to the full Board. The Members concurred that it would be appropriate to brief the full Board on the possible options identified by Ms. Linstedt during the meeting of the following day. The full Board could then discuss these options and consider a possible motion or postpone discussion and action until the December meeting. In the event the full Board chooses not to take action on the options at this meeting, the Committee would then agendaize the topic for further Committee review and development of a possible recommendation to the full Board at the December meeting.

Agenda Item #3: Status Report on Draft Soquel Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update and Reconstitution of the Soquel Advisory Committee.

Staff reported briefly that appointments to the Advisory Committee are pending. There is no further information to report at this time.

Agenda Item #4: Presentation of Draft Board Policy Statement Regarding Cal Fire Implementation of AB 2351.

Staff reported that State Forest Program Staff, Jim Kral, Gerri Finn, and Craig Pedersen are presently working on the practical elements of recreational user fee collection on the various state forests. In the meantime, Board staff will work with State Forest Program Manager, Dr. Helge Eng and Assistant Deputy Director, Dr. Russ Henly to draft policy statement language for the Committee’s consideration at the December meeting.

Agenda Item #5: Continuing Discussion of Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects.

Staff reported that the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) has been revised to include portions of the draft Statewide Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (VTP EIR) analysis. No further revisions have been made to the rule plead language. As directed by the Committee in October, staff prepared a draft cumulative impacts assessment checklist for possible inclusion with MTHP submissions. The draft checklist is intended for use by the RPF to document MTHP project-level impacts assessment. The checklist was created based upon review of the CEQA Guidelines, Board Technical Rule Addendum Number 2, several Cal Fire CEQA project templates, and the VTP EIR checklist document.

Following discussion of the status of the proposal and the newly developed checklist element, staff was directed as follows:

- Staff to email the list of key questions identified earlier by Chairman Piirto for review once again by Committee participants.
- Staff to solicit review of the draft checklist by Cal Fire Environmental Protection Program Manager, Allen Robertson for the purpose of ascertaining its consistency with CEQA.
- Staff to follow-up with Cal Fire wildlife biologist, Bob Motroni and DFG biologist, Lorna Dobrovolny as to the status of the WHR modeling effort in support of the MTHP proposal.
- Staff to ensure that draft documents are posted for public review on the Board's website.
- Staff to revise draft ISOR to include relevant portions of fuel treatment simulations report prepared by Cal Fire's Jeff Leddy, along with other previously identified revisions and inclusions.

Agenda Item #6: Selected New Items from the Committee's Reported Priorities for 2010

Staff presented the two remaining items on the Committee's list of priorities yet to be discussed as agenda items. The two items were identified by the Department during the 2009 Rule Implementation Review conducted annually in the Board's Policy Committee. Following brief review of the content of the two items, staff was directed to request additional information from the Department.

Agenda Item #7: New and Unfinished Business

a. SYP Renewal Update.

Staff reported briefly on the status of the Wm. Beaty & Associates SYP Renewal submission for Red River Forests.

b. Discussion of items for next month's agenda, review of 2010 Priorities.

Chairman Piirto reviewed agenda items for the December Board Meeting.

c. New Business

Chairman Piirto reported on his attendance of the 2010 Society of American Foresters National Convention in the company of 10 students from the Cal Poly Natural Resources Management Department.

Possible Committee Agenda Items for December 2010 Meeting

Chairman Piirto identified the following agenda items for possible inclusion on the December 2010 Agenda:

1. Discussion of Prospective Interim Guidance for Cal Fire Management Plan Implementation during period of Board Review of JAG Recommendations. **Possible Action Item.**
2. Review of final draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines Document. **Possible Action Item.**
3. Continuing Discussion of Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects.
4. Presentation of Draft Board Policy Statement Regarding Cal Fire Implementation of AB 2351. **Possible Action Item.**
5. Status Report on Draft Soquel Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update and Reconstitution of the Soquel Advisory Committee.
6. New and Unfinished Business:
 - a. SYP Renewal Update
 - b. December Agenda Items and Review of 2010 Committee Priorities

Possible Full Board Agenda Items for December 2010 Meeting

1. Discussion of Prospective Interim Guidance for Cal Fire Management Plan Implementation during period of Board Review of JAG Recommendations. **Possible Action Item.**
-

Management Committee Priorities for 2010

PRIORITY 1:

Evaluation/Monitoring of Forest Practice Rules:

1. **Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Review:** *Rules for SYP extension adopted. Comprehensive review of SYP and implementation of extension, 2010. **Objective: Complete by end of 2010***
2. **Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Review:** *Ongoing review of issues. Department Draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines document posted on Department website—currently in use by Department plan review personnel. Review Guidelines, February 2010. **Objective: Complete by mid 2010***
3. **(D09 #12) Modified THP for fuel reduction:** *The Board could make changes to increase the utility of an MTHP, e.g., expanding the allowable acreage, limiting the application to small timberland owners and modifying certain limitations, or, as is currently being considered, focus a category of MTHPs on fuels reduction. Phase 7. Stakeholder input. Discussion of monitoring, photo points. **Objective: Complete by end of 2010***

Demonstration State Forests Management:

4. **Jackson (Liaison to JAG):** *Harvesting began in 2009. Nearing end of interim period; will need to consider revisions to management by end of 2010.*
5. **Soquel:** *Updated Management Plan under development. **Objective: Management Plan Update and CEQA coverage to be completed by Spring of 2011.***

PRIORITY 2:

6. **(D09 #15)14 CCR § 1092.04(d)** [in part], A Notice of Intent shall include the following information: **(4)** The acres proposed to be harvested. **(5)** The regeneration methods and intermediate treatments to be used. 14 CCR § 1092.04(d)(4) requires stating the acres proposed to be harvested. Board should amend this paragraph to include all acres where **timber operations** will occur. Board should consider the current definition of logging area and the lack of a definition of plan area.
14 CCR § 1092.04(d)(5) This paragraph may not capture all possible treatments that may occur under a plan (special prescriptions, road right-of-way, or fuelbreak.)
7. **(D09 #4)14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)]**. Board should consider forming a technical working group to consider changes to existing MSP rule to provide more concrete standards for the MSP demonstration per 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)]. Consider implications for assuring AB 32 targets.

PRIORITY 3:

14 CCR § 912.9, Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum No. 2:

8. Categories need to be expanded to include climate change and effect on fire threat from the proposed harvest. **(To Policy Committee)**
9. Maps need to show all the past, currently proposed, and likely future THPs layered into one map. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
10. Biological assessment areas and proportional mitigations, expansion of consideration of non-conifer resource. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
11. Is mitigation required proportional to the impacts? E.g., small harvest operations required to utilize the same mitigations as industrial operations. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
12. Consider adding adjacent watersheds for evaluating past, present and future projects.. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
13. Assessment of impacts made project by project, need landscape approach. California State Wildlife Action Plan not being adhered to: "Using the best-available science, extent, pattern, and pace for timber-harvest in a forest watershed".
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WAP/>. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
14. CEQA case law states that where the environmental baseline demonstrates existing significant impacts, this heightens, rather than reduces, the scrutiny that must be applied in the resulting cumulative impact assessment. The Board of Forestry, Cal Fire, DFG, Water Boards, and the scientific community should begin to address CWEs by developing detailed guidance documents on the subject. **(to Policy Committee discussion regarding WQ policy issues)**